

Human Relations News

from the

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MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

LEO P. CARLIN, MAYOR

An official agency created by the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance to carry out the State policy against discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.
Room 214, City Hall, Newark, Mitchell 3-6300, Ext. 281

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A bi-monthly summary of facts and trends in human relations and civil rights

September 1958

New Jersey Levittown Faces Bias Law

New Jersey's Attorney General has given assurance that the state's anti-discrimination laws will be "fully enforced" if they apply to the proposed all-white Levittown No. 3, now under construction in Burlington County (*Trends*, June-July, 1958).

On August 12, representatives of the New Jersey Committee Against Discrimination in Housing conferred with Attorney General Furman in Trenton. The conference was held in accordance with a request made by Governor Robert B. Meyner when a previous delegation met with him on July 7.

The NJCADH representatives submitted to Mr. Furman a 16-page legal memorandum, outlining suggested steps the state might consider in its case against Mr. Levitt's policy of racial discrimination. Among other things, the memorandum stated that the "policy of excluding nonwhite families . . . violates the laws of the state" and "the attorney general has ample power to seek effective judicial action to obtain prompt reversal of that policy."

The complaint of discrimination which was filed in July is still being processed by the New Jersey Division Against Discrimination, official state agency charged with administering the anti-bias laws.

Meanwhile, William J. Levitt, developer of the proposed all-white city, has filed an application with the New Jersey Banking and Insurance Department for establishment of "The Bank of Levittown." Hearings on the application will begin on September 25.

(Reprinted from *Trends in Housing*, August-September, 1958.)

LOCAL RESIDENTS HAIL NEWARK'S FILM PREMIERE OF "BURDEN OF TRUTH"

The opening Fall meeting of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations was held in Room B-21, City Hall on Wednesday, September 17 at 8 p.m., and featured the showing of a full-length film called "Burden of Truth". Room B-21 was filled with a stimulating group from Newark and Essex County who acknowledged the fact that this was the best film in the field of human relations that they have seen.

Newark Citizens Plan For UN Day Celebration

Mayor Leo P. Carlin, in preparing for the annual observance of United Nations Week, has appointed Mrs. Philip Josephson, 169 Goldenboth Avenue, Newark, as chairman for the City-wide celebration.

Mrs. Josephson, in accepting the position for the third year, said: "Because of the emergency session of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the crucial issue facing the World in the Middle East, now, more than ever, local individuals as well as organizations must recommit to give renewed confidence and support to the World's last hope for continuing peace."

Although we have appeared to be on the brink of war many times during the past years, the United Nations has proven superior to each tension situation and has truly fulfilled the mission for which it was founded."

The first planning meeting for this year's observance was held on Thursday, September 11th. Representatives of

This Hollywood production, utilizing professional actors, tells the story of a young colored man who leaves the South to go into the Army, then takes advantage of educational opportunities under the GI Bill.

He meets discrimination as he tries to get a professional job and later as he moves into a new home in an all-white neighborhood.

The film shows violent reaction of white neighbors to entry of the young colored family, the arguments of a real-estate salesman against selling to the colored family in any but a non-white neighborhood and the warm friendship of a white college classmate who helps the young couple with their numerous problems.

This is the first film produced in America which portrays the suspicion and antagonism toward integration from some colored persons who feel that a "separate but equal" society is best.

At the conclusion of the Film Forum, the audience was given a reaction card to fill out. 46 persons responded; 23 said the film was very fine, 25 felt it was good. Quizzed on what they thought about the discussion which followed the film, 20 said it was very fine and 26 marked it good. Practically all members present indicated a desire to show the film in their own clubs and organizations.

Persons wishing to procure "Burden of Truth" will write to Mr. Francis C. Shane, Committee on Civil Rights, United Steelworkers of America, 1500 Commonwealth Bldg., Pittsburgh 22, Pennsylvania.

(Continued on Page 4, Column 3)

Commission Extends Program Services to Local Community

In the months of August and September, 30 Newark and Essex County organizations were again called upon the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations to arrange programs for them on a number of different topics. Dan Anthony, Director and Walter Chambers, Assistant Director, are now holding a number of conferences with the program chairman for the purpose of arranging the kind of program which fits the specific needs of the organization.

All Commission members participate in the Speaker's Bureau which will share the responsibility for covering all community needs. The topics suggested by the Commission and the number of responses to each topic are listed below.

1. America's Role in International Human Relations 11
2. Intergroup Relations in Newark, 1958-59 13
3. What is the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations 6
4. Panel discussion on Rutgers Workshop in Human Relations 9
5. Film forum on the Psychology of Prejudice 11
6. The Unfinished Business of American democracy 12
7. What is a Community Survey of Intergroup Relations 12

Other organizations which have not availed themselves of this program service may feel free to call Mitchell 3-6300, Ext. 281 for assistance.

Those organizations which have already requested the Commission to arrange programs for them this coming year are:

Lions Club of Newark, Cong. Sinai Iserban, American Jewish Congress, B & P Chapter—American Jewish Congress, Roosevelt Chapter, American Jewish Congress—Director's Office, North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, Health Department, City of Newark, Mothers' Club—Boys Club of Newark, Division Against Discrimination, South Side Parent-Teachers Association, Vailburg Methodist Church, The Leaguers, Inc., Americans For Democratic Action, Military Order of the World Wars, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 2139, Citizens' Progressive Civic Association.

The Psychology of Selling Human Relations

Modern psychological techniques now used by "Madison Avenue" to promote the sales of soap and cornflakes are much more urgently needed to deal with the causes and effects of prejudice in our "sick society," Dr. Alfred J. Marrow told the National Urban League.

In an address to the Annual Conference of the League at Omaha, Nebraska, Dr. Marrow, Chairman of New York City's Commission on Intergroup Relations, warned that segregation wreaks serious psychological havoc not only on those segregated, but on the "segregators" as well.

"In the South" Dr. Marrow said, "the white children will ultimately be more damaged than the Negro children. For the Negro children 20 years from now will regard their parents' struggle with admiration, whereas the white children will have to repress or rationalize their feelings of shame about the behavior of their fathers and mothers."

There is urgent need to apply new psychological tools if we are to achieve "mental health" for all our citizens, white and black, Dr. Marrow declared.

"The barriers to wholesome intergroup relations lie largely below the surface," he said. "When we attempt to cope with the rational logical facade that is visible to us, we are frustrated. Appeals to reason or conscience have availed very little . . . facts don't change prejudices . . . administrative and legal measures alone will not suffice."

In the advertising world, Dr. Marrow noted, motivation research is now being used to find out a great deal about the irrational reasons for buying behavior. "But motivational research should not be limited to the exploitation of cornflakes and beer," he said. "It should be used where it is most needed, in the arena of community living, where social tensions and antagonisms prevail."

Attitude surveys, depth interviewing and other psychological techniques should be put to use "in New York, Chicago, Detroit and Los Angeles as well as in the Southern states" Dr. Marrow said. "When their findings are gathered and interpreted, much can be done to muster positive forces and overcome the resistance to change."

As an illustration of the limited social

use now made of psychological skills, Dr. Marrow estimated that a psychiatrist can treat about 300 patients during his whole professional career. "If he had worked instead, in the schools or neighborhood, he might have been of help to fifty or five hundred times as many people."

Many other untapped resources could be utilized for this vital work, Dr. Marrow pointed out. "The United States Government itself is the largest employer of social scientists in the world. Many prominent social scientists on the faculties of universities—north and south—are available to cooperate with local school officials or other administrators to prepare their communities for social changes."

Dr. Marrow addressed the hush-hour session of the fourth day of the 6-day Urban League conference. He also served as Chairman of workshop sessions on the previous day.

Who's My Neighbor?

Algernon D. Black, National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing acting chairman, is the author of this new pamphlet just published by the Public Affairs Committee.

The highly readable 28-page booklet is designed to help the average American home owner and his family learn and face the facts about integrated communities "realistically and constructively and with clear conviction and courage."

Mr. Black discusses such questions as the effect of mixed neighborhoods on children, social status and prestige, and the fear of inundation—as well as panic selling, property values, maintenance of property, and financial stability.

Includes list of organizations supporting an open housing market and a bibliography.

Available from NCDH or from the Public Affairs Committee, 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y. 25¢ each. Special rates for quantity orders.

(Reprinted from *Trends in Housing*, August-September, 1955)

SUMMER WORKSHOPS IN HUMAN RELATIONS

Rutgers University—1958

by MARTIN ROCHOW

Attending the Workshop in Human Relations for the second year was a very stimulating and strengthening experience for me. It brought into sharp focus the meaning of the dignity of man, its crystallized human values and what they mean. All this became the kinetic force which set off a chain reaction involving the atoms of society. It demonstrated most clearly that there is practicality in utilizing the abilities and potentialities of all people. In terms of cold hard economics, the Workshop shows the way for society to harness its powers. It is apparent that exposure of the individual member of a society to the Workshop enables him to envision the reorganization of the personality of that society by adding or subtracting the building blocks which comprise it. These blocks can be thought of as people, each one adding his contribution. The cement which binds the blocks together can be thought of as common interests.

The workshop setting is like that of an ideal community where people live and work with each other. Here they are freed from the taboos and pressures which are present in everyday life. Racial, ethnic, cultural and religious differences are noted, but they become secondary when people understand each other and work together. This is not to say that participants lose their identities; on the contrary, they assume the same natural roles, i.e. leaders, helpers. They learn that differences are not always as important as the things which make people similar. The climate affords the individual the opportunity to function at his highest level. The reduction of adverse societal pressures enables him to experience the rewards of recognition. This, in turn, gives him positive feelings of satisfaction and fulfillment. People have the chance to "talk out loud" about many of their anxieties and prejudices, without being criticized or condemned.

Understanding and insight are the by-products of living and working together. The Workshop afforded me the opportunity to gain this understanding and insight.

Encampment For Citizenship—1958

by TONY HIXSON

"The Encampment for Citizenship", read the brochure, "is a six week study and exploration of democratic ideals and leadership techniques . . . to develop informed and responsible citizens". Dr. Alperston Black, founder and educational director, qualified this at the opening session on the Berkeley campus with the concept that . . . "it would start us on the road to becoming informed and responsible citizens."

My room-mate from Roosevelt University in Chicago, Marge Thomas, Evvy from Antioch and Narinder from Burma, with whom I shared this Encampment, would agree with me that the above descriptions didn't begin to convey the depth or uniqueness of the experience.



Tony Hixson, 1958 Encampment for Citizenship.

Describing a field trip, such as the one to the farms in Salinas Valley, all run with migratory labor, seeing the migrant family camps, interviewing both the manager of the Growers Association, and the representative of Packinghouse Workers Union, would give a glimpse of the thorough way we approached a problem in economics.

Politics was explored in an equally thorough manner—we heard a professor of political science, a Republican Assemblyman, the Chairman of the State Democratic Committee. There was a

panel on "The Bill of Rights" and lectures on Civil Liberties and Civil Rights.

We dug into the psychology of prejudice and the Supreme Court Decision on segregation and education, and then we visited 12 agencies dealing with different minority group civil rights matters.

In between analyzing we hiked, square danced, sang together, swam together, visited museums and attended concerts.

We had gab sessions where we talked about the really important things; how different the atmosphere was; warm, accepting, relaxed and informal. We felt that the group method of communication, the workshops, the discussion groups, the living together, the playing together, were important ways of learning. Most important of all, we felt the sincerity and conviction of the leadership. We felt their interest in, respect for and acceptance of each individual. I personally became more confident in myself and in my own thinking. I saw Ray, a fellow camper of Japanese extraction, who confessed later he had developed a terrific tennis game at Occidental College in order to gain acceptance, become one of our most popular and beloved members because of his sensitivity and keen intelligence.

We found ourselves reflecting our Leaders' attitudes in our own interpersonal relations. I remember "Montana" Dick, blond, broad shouldered, 6' 2", and Santiago from Puerto Rico, with his black curly hair, who both went to Francois, our gay, dapper, and sensitive Parisian for help in gaining confidence in their relationships with girls.

I, too, went with this same 6' 2" Montana Dick said at the closing banquet, "I am an only child but I feel I have gained 17 brothers and 26 sisters."

I remembered his words again yesterday and felt the same as I thumbed through a pictorial book, called "The Family of Man."

SELECTED READING

Silber, Marshall, editor. *The Jews: social patterns of an American group*. Free Press, 1958.
" . . . insight into contemporary Jewish life made possible . . . by . . . many specialists.

CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS

by ROBERT E. SEGAL

Massachusetts offered the nation a rather good example of celebrating the 10th anniversary of the release of the epochal report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights by assembling some 250 real estate men, industrialists, educators, ministers, lawyers, civic leaders, labor leaders, labor chiefs, guidance counselors, and "later-groupers" for a sharp look at progress and suggestions for the future.

Thus the dream of every serious student of the art of assuring equality of opportunity in employment and housing was realized for at least one shining June day. For on this occasion, the men and women who handle real estate transactions and the folks who help pass out jobs actually met together to strengthen the performance of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination and to hunt out new ways to educate and to seek further legislation.

And for once, the despised dogooders, eggheads, and hot seekers after racial and religious justice and understanding were not talking to themselves or even to the already-converted.

Would Welcome Action

Late in the conference, more than one real estate man said openly that he would like "to be taken off the hook." They would be happy to have the state bring forth a law putting an end to all discrimination in all housing transactions, private as well as public, they said. For then, the case would no longer be on them. And when neighbors indulging in gentlemen's agreements asked them to sell or rent homes with bias tags on them, the realtors would be in strong position to say "Sorry, Joe; the law says 'No!'"

It was amply indicated in this conference, too, that a key to much of the trouble is just the plain lack of low-cost housing. Many people don't realize that this nation—finding itself called upon to mobilize industry for participation in two huge World Wars in the first half of the 20th Century at the same time the population was climbing up towards the 200,000,000 mark and improved transportation facilities were making the suburbs popular—just didn't have the left-over material and manpower and money to build enough houses.

Throughout this unusual conference

ran the threads of (1) moral imperative, and (2) economic realities. Nobody who bothered to block off a full day for participation in this assembly would deny that if our great nation had, up to now, matched action with preachment, we would not need to be examining shortcomings in such fields as housing and job opportunities.

Fear Loss of Value

Again, it was shown over and over that the acute fear of loss of property value motivates many people who refuse to sell their homes to members of minority groups. And this despite the fact that many careful studies reveal a myth buried in such suppositions.

Those who participated more than a decade ago in the fight for the original FEPC law in Massachusetts listened with special attention to the father of that law, Attorney Charles P. Curtis, Jr., known to thousands as the author of *The Practical Copiator*. They marked these wise words of his:

"These twin stupidities—racial segregation and racial discrimination—seem to me to be slowly on their way out. If we don't call them back, if we keep putting the weight of our good sense against them, I think we shall look back on the last 10 years as the era when we were to become as tolerant of racial differences as we were of religious differences."

"I think I know why: If you believe that living and working together in a group . . . creates a group morality and that as we find ourselves more and more crowded into cities, and our cities spreading into suburbs, and the suburbs becoming more and more urban, then a group morality is a pretty good thing to have. Indeed, it's indispensable."

Let other states follow this example; and our great nation will be starting to serve notice that the huge moral enterprise of improvement in the area of equality of opportunity—set in motion by the report of former President Truman's Committee on Civil Rights—is well on its way to helping to wipe out the disgrace for America of Little Rock, Grosse Pointe, Nashville, and those other modern sad chapters of our story to which communist propagandists the world over point with high glee.

(Reprinted from the *Jewish News*,
Newark, N. J.)

Commission Opens Lending Library on Human Relations

For the past five years our Commission has been building up a library of the most important books relating to Human Relations, Anthropology, Civil Rights, Group Dynamics, Social and Psychological Research and Community Leadership. These books, magazines and pamphlets have been available to Newark citizens on a one month loan basis.

For the next three issues of Human Relations News, we will list all the books, magazines and pamphlets we have available for circulation. Please keep these three issues for your complete file of our total library. Following is a partial list of our present titles.

Abrams, Charles. *Forbidden Neighbors*. Harper & Bros. 1955.

"A study of race prejudice in housing," Allport, Gordon W. *The Resolution of Intergroup Tensions*. Pamphlet by Natl. Conference of Christians & Jews. 1952.

"A critical appraisal of methods," Allport, Gordon W. *ABC's of Scapegoating*. Reprint by Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. 1948.

"A continuum of social relationships among human groups."

Bartos, Rebecca Chalmers. *Our Human Rights*. Public Affairs Press, Washington, D. C. 1955.

"A study in the art of persuasion," Clark, Kenneth B. *Prejudice and Your Child*. Boston, Mass. 1955.

"The problems of prejudice and a program for action."

UN Day Celebration

(Continued from Page 1, Column 2) some 25 organizations of the total 100 which annually sponsor the Newark UN Day celebration were present at this meeting.

At this time plans were outlined for an all-day observance to be held on Wednesday, October 29, 1956. These plans include a conference, a public dinner and a city-wide, evening celebration to be held at the Hotel Essex House.

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, as in previous years, has been designated by Mayor Carlini to coordinate the activities of the Committee for the United Nations.

For further information call or write to Room 214, City Hall, Mitchell 3-6300, Ext. 281.